

SOME SEASONAL NOTES ON LONG ISLAND BIRDS.

BY HENRY THURSTON AND HOWARTH S. BOYLE.¹

ON the 22d of October, 1907, the Linnaean Society of New York published an abstract containing "A List of Long Island Birds." by Dr. Wm. C. Braislin. Though this list, for which every Long Island bird student feels indebted to Dr. Braislin, is the most complete and best list of Long Island birds that has yet appeared, we have made several observations that more or less extend the seasonal occurrence of certain species as there given and offer them herewith together with certain other notes that may prove of interest to investigators of avian life in this vicinity.

Our notes that extend dates recorded by Dr. Braislin are marked by an asterisk.

***Pisobia fuscicollis*.** WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER.—I had a fine chance to see an individual at Mastic, L. I., on August 24, 1912. Mr. J. T. Nichols and I observed another on August 26. (T)

***Numenius hudsonicus*.** HUDSONIAN CURLEW.—Unusually abundant this (1912) season. A flock of fifty by actual count, were seen at Freeport, L. I., on August 4, 1912.

The largest flocks were seen earlier. In company with my brother on July 27, 1912, I saw three large flocks, one composed of one hundred and fifty birds. (T)

***Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*.** MOURNING DOVE.—On the sixteenth of March, 1913, on the Flushing Meadows, Flushing, L. I., I observed one of these birds which I studied for ten minutes or more. Upon clapping my hands the bird flew, disappearing in the mist. (B)

****Circus hudsonius*.** MARSH HAWK.—This bird is a winter resident at Flushing. I have records as follows all from Flushing Meadows: February 24, November 3, November 24, 1912, and January 1, 1913. (B)

***Falco sparverius*.** SPARROW HAWK.—This little falcon is a winter resident; my note book shows records as follows: December 30, 1911, January 10, November 24, December 7, 8, and 29, 1912. These observations were also made at Flushing Meadows and near vicinity. (B)

****Asio wilsonianus*.** LONG-EARED OWL.—While walking over a frozen birch swamp two miles back of Flushing, L. I., on February 8, 1913, I unexpectedly stumbled upon a roosting place of the Long-eared Owls. As we

¹ Observations made by Mr. Boyle are followed by a B; those by Mr. Thurston have a T appended.

approached the tree in which they were roosting, the birds flew. We remained quietly seated on the roof of a musk-rat house, which was situated beneath the tree and I heard one of the owls give a warble-like note. Presently they began to return. I counted twelve and my companion saw fifteen. We made our exit from under their roost without further disturbing them. The Owls were also seen on February 9 and 15, 1913. (B)

Cryptoglaux acadica acadica. SAW-WHET OWL.—I got my first record for the Saw-whet Owl at Floral Park, L. I., on November 24, 1912. A boy brought in a beautiful immature specimen which he had found dead in the woods. (T)

***Ceryle alcyon alcyon.** BELTED KINGFISHER.—At North Beach, a sandy strip near Flushing, L. I., on the twenty-sixth of February, 1911, I saw a Kingfisher. (B)

***Archilochus colubris.** RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—While sailing out of New York Harbor on the tenth of May, 1912, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird flew aboard the boat while off the lower Staten Island shore and hovered a few minutes around the awnings, finally flying toward the Long Island shore. It was a male bird and undoubtedly made Long Island as I had a strong pair of glasses and was able to follow its flight, which was direct for that shore. (T)

Tyrannus tyrannus. KINGBIRD.—At Mastic, L. I., on August 24, 1912, while walking with Mr. John Treadwell Nichols near his home we observed straggling flocks of migrating Kingbirds that numbered about three hundred individuals. The birds seemed to be following a fixed route as every one would first approach us by flying along the banks of a small stream near which we were standing and upon reaching a point a little above our station branched off and took an inland course.

Kingbirds seemed unusually common on Long Island during the fall season of 1912. (T)

***Corvus ossifragus.** FISH CROW.—A common resident this winter, if not every one. Early in the frosty mornings from my window I can see them journeying with their common black cousins to a garbage dump that lies east of Floral Park. On December 25, 1912, I collected one from a mixed flock of about three hundred birds that descended on our grounds. About seventy-five of this flock were *C. ossifragus*. More were also seen on February 28, 1913, at the same dump. (T)

Sturnus vulgaris. EUROPEAN STARLING.—On the 19th of February at Floral Park, L. I., I saw a flock of Starlings, conservatively estimated to contain five thousand birds.

A habit of Starlings which might be of interest to those who have not witnessed it is that of indulging in mid-night serenades. Several times in the evening, once or twice rather late, I have passed at Hempstead, L. I., a couple of churches with old-fashioned towers that make fine roosting places for numbers of these birds and have always heard them squeaking, hissing or whistling. On March 4, 1913, one was sounding his rich melodious call at the top of his voice, at 10.30 P. M. (T)

Dolichonyx oryzivorus. BOBOLINK.—My first Long Island Bobolinks were seen, in company with Mr. Nichols at Mastic on August 24, 1912. We arose about 4. A. M. and started for a sniping trip in his canoe and it did not take us long to realize that a large migratory flight was on. The air was full of bird calls, shadowy forms of Nighthawks and Whippoorwills dashed by, but chiefly noticeably above all other sounds was the sparkling, silvery "link, link, link" of hundreds of Rice Birds. As dawn approached we could begin to see the flocks pass and most of them were very high. We calculated that eight thousand birds passed over us. The flight was over by 8.30 A. M. (T)

***Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys.** WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.—In a large berry patch at Floral Park, L. I., on October 22, 1912, I saw some strange looking sparrows and immediately collected one which proved to be a juvenal White-crowned Sparrow. There were about thirty birds in this flock and they stayed with us quite late; so late in fact that I collected another, now in Dr. Dwight's collection, on the fifth of November!

Dr. Braislin's latest record for Long Island seems to be October 21 and he also quotes this bird as "rare." I wonder if this is not due to the fact that the immature plumage is not half so well known as that of the adult.

The numbers seen this fall would make the species anything but rare, though of course there may have been an unusually large flight this season. (T)

***Spizella monticola monticola.** TREE SPARROW.—I have the following late records for the Tree Sparrow on Flushing Meadows: April 13, 14, 20, and 21, 1912. Newtown Swamp, April 7, 1912. (B)

***Spizella pusilla pusilla.** FIELD SPARROW.—Several were seen at Floral Park, L. I., on February 15, 1913. This extends either the early date of arrival or, what is more probable, establishes the bird as a winter resident on Long Island. I fail to see why this should not be the case as they reside in New Jersey all winter at practically the same latitude. (T)

***Melospiza georgiana.** SWAMP SPARROW.—On the salt marshes at Flushing, L. I., the Swamp Sparrow may be found on almost any day during the winter. The short bushes that cover the higher places form excellent shelters for the birds. Dates as follows: December 7, 8, 29, 1912, and February 15, 1913. (B)

***Passerella iliaca iliaca.** FOX SPARROW.—During the winters of 1911 and 1912 the Fox Sparrow was often seen. Some records from Flushing Meadows: Feb. 22 and 26, December 3, 1911, January 20, December 7 and 8, 1912. These sparrows were also seen at Jamaica, L. I., on January 20, 1912. (B)

***Lanius ludovicianus migrans.** MIGRANT SHRIKE.—Unusually common around Floral Park during the fall migration of 1912. I collected three individuals and several others were seen. The dates of collection were September 13, October 1, and October 22, 1912. (T)

***Vermivora chrysoptera.** GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER.—One observed at Flushing, L. I., on May 12, 1912. It was watched for nearly a half an hour. (B)

***Dumetella carolinensis.** CATBIRD.— On November 2 and 10, 1912, a Catbird, apparently in fine condition, was seen at Flushing, L. I. (B)

***Regulus satrapa satrapa.** RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.— On September 30, 1911, a large flight of these Kinglets was observed in a patch of woods near Forest Hills, L. I. (B)



NOTES ON THE OCCURRENCE AND NESTING OF CERTAIN BIRDS IN RHODE ISLAND.

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DURING the interval which has elapsed since the publication of the 'Birds of Rhode Island' by Howe and Sturtevant in 1899, and the Supplement thereto in 1903, many records of rare and interesting birds have accumulated and are herewith published as a contribution to our knowledge of the avifauna of this state. The Western Willet, Arctic three-toed Woodpecker, Evening Grosbeak, and Nelson's Sparrow have been added to the list of the birds of the state. The breeding of Henslow's Sparrow, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Pine Warbler, Water Thrush, Winter Wren and Hermit Thrush has been established, while an increase in numbers of the Laughing Gull, Common Tern, Sparrow Hawk and Carolina Wren has been noted.

I am greatly indebted to Messrs. Charles B. Clarke, of Newport, Harry S. Champlin of Point Judith, Israel R. Sheldon of Pawtuxet, Miss Elizabeth Dickens of Block Island, and others for specimens and valuable notes, and I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to them.

Gavia stellata. RED-THROATED LOON.— Adult birds are rarely seen on our coast. A male in full nuptial plumage was taken off Newport on the late date of May 21, 1908, by Mr. C. B. Clarke.

Cephus grylle. BLACK GUILLEMOT. An extremely rare and irregular winter visitant. Additional records are as follows. A male shot January 1, 1906 off Sakonnet Point, a female December 30, 1906, at Newport and a male November 28, 1909, at Cormorant Rock off Newport. These birds, all in the gray winter plumage, were collected by Mr. C. B. Clarke and